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# WELFARE DIVISION

## LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



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## Purpose

The Nevada State Welfare Division administers the Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEA) Program to assist low-income families with their energy costs. The program receives funding from a LIHEAP block grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and from Universal Energy Charge (UEC) funds distributed through the Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation.

## Eligibility

Nevada households may be eligible if:

- The total monthly gross household income, based on the size of the household; is not more than the amount listed below, and
- The household's total annual heating and electric energy usage in dollars is over 4.27% of the household's annual gross income, and
- The household is at least partly responsible for home heating or cooling costs by paying a utility company or fuel supplier directly or as part of the rent.

Household Size	Maximum Monthly Income
1	\$1,107.50
2	1,492.50
3	1,877.50
4	2,262.50
5	2,647.50
6	3,032.50

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7	3,417.50
8	3,802.50
Add:	385.00

## Benefits

Benefits are paid once each program year and vary depending on the household's gross annual income and total annual energy usage in dollars. Benefits are paid directly to the energy provider in most cases.

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### How to Apply

The LIHEA program is available from July 1st through June 30th or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. You must submit a new application form every program year. Include proof of **ALL** income for **EVERY PERSON** in the household for the last thirty (30) days; proof of the amount paid for housing costs; the name and phone number of your landlord/housing project; copies of your last heating and electric bills; all household member's Social Security number; and copies of your last heating and electric bills if you receive services from Nevada Power, Sierra Pacific Power, and/or Southwest Gas. For all other heating and electric companies, you must provide proof of the last 12 months of usage in dollars and units of energy; i.e., kilowatt hours, therms, gallons, etc. This documentation may be in the form of copies of heating/electric bills, or you may go to your heating/electric company(ies) and request a print-out of your actual annual energy usage in dollars and units of energy.

Applications may be obtained through our office or through one of many **Intake Sites** around the State. Intake Sites will also provide assistance in completing and mailing applications to our office. For more information please contact us at:

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## 2002 LIHEA Funding and Participation Information

The LIHEA program received a federal grant of \$3.2 million in fiscal year 2002. The program also received Universal Energy Charge (UEC) monies, approximately \$2.1 million, from the Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation. The LIHEA program served a total of 15,665 low-income

households in FY 2002 compared to 9,025 in FY 2001. This represents an increase of about 73.5%. The average benefit in FY 2002 was \$293.

The table below shows the total number of households served in each category during FY 2001 and FY 2002, and the percentage of increase from FY 2001 to FY 2002.

CATEGORIES	STATEWIDE		Percentage Increase
	This Year	Last Year	
*Households with ELDERLY	8,416	7,191	17%
*Households with DISABLED	9,497	7,127	33%
*Households with CHILDREN UNDER 3	2,603	911	186%
*Households with CHILDREN 3-6	2,811	1,054	167%
*SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS	7,670	5,899	30%
*SSI RECIPIENTS	3,733	2,725	37%
*TANF RECIPIENTS	1,486	470	216%
*FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS	7,123	3,796	88%
*EARNED INCOME	3,634	1,455	150%
BELOW 75% POVERTY LEVEL	5,069	1,914	165%
BETWEEN 75-100% POVERTY	4,716	3,363	40%
BETWEEN 100-125% POVERTY	3,544	2,259	57%
BETWEEN 125-150% POVERTY	2,336	1,273	84%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/OBLIGATIONS	\$4,584,484	\$2,791,749	64%

#### Other facts regarding the households served in FY2002:

- ▶ 80% of those assisted had never applied before
- ▶ 79% of those assisted are renters
- ▶ 38% of those assisted are in subsidized housing
- ▶ 66% of those assisted consist of 1-2 person households
- ▶ 48% of those assisted heat with natural gas, 45% with electricity, 5.5% with propane, and 1.5% use other types of fuel (i.e., oil, kerosene, etc.)

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